

Poplar Springs Baptist Church

1898-1978

eightieth anniversary

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POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY



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SEPTEMBER 1898 – JUNE 1978

This history of Poplar Springs Church was compiled from the church minutes and verified information given to us by people of the community and by people outside the community who had relatives living in this area during the period of this history.

When the last church building was nearing completion, we began to make plans for a dedication service. Mrs. John Berry Hamrick and Mrs. Randy Mull began reading the church minutes in order to write a short history of the church to be used in the program for the dedication service. Later, when we began working on our 75th Anniversary, held on October 28, 1973, Mrs. Oren Wyatt and Mrs. John Berry Hamrick continued to work on this history to be used as a part of the anniversary celebration.

Many hours of research went into the information in the enclosed material. There are many people to thank for sharing information, thus enabling us to write this history.

Although much of this information is not written with quotes, much of it was copied exactly as written in the minutes. As you read the history, I feel sure that you will recognize the statements written many years ago.

The minutes were very incomplete and there were years no minutes were kept at all. History is so important, and I am afraid that we are doing the same thing done many years ago - - trusting our memories instead of putting complete information in the minutes today.

The pictures of all former pastors now hang in the church foyer, and are a by-product of this study of our church history.

I am so proud to be a part of the history of this great church. I count it a real privilege to have had the opportunity to work on this history of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

Let us always remember, "History is made by those who dare, recorded and preserved by those who care."

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Berry Hamrick

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CHARTER MEMBERS

Johnathan P. Barnett	Sidney Boyd Jones
Alice Estelle Dodd	Eugene William Thomas Ledbetter
David Crockett Dodd	Furman Monroe Ledbetter
Elizabeth Jane Dodd	Margaret Hesentine Ledbetter
Edward Stanhope Glasco	Lizzie Lee Lattimore
Martha Jane Glasco	Sarah Casandra Lattimore
Mary Jane Glasco	William Aaron Lattimore
Minnie Ollie Glasco	Salida Miller McSwain
Martha Elizabeth ("Mettie") Harrill	William McSwain
John Ross Harrill	General Marion Moore
Alonzo Marion Hamrick	John Matterson Moore
Charlotte Madora Hamrick	Malland Dovus Moore
Elnora Elizabeth Hamrick	Margaret Jane Moore
John Calhoun Hamrick	Marshall Morris Moore
Governor Vance Hawkins	Mary Narcissus ("Mollie") Moore
Joseph S. Hawkins	Cansas C. Morehead
Julia Ann Hawkins	Jane Morehead
Nancy Hawkins	Jefferson Davis Pruitt
Ranson Newton Hawkins	Martha Etta Pruitt
William T. Hawkins	Cynthia Tate
Elijah L. Holland	Charlie Wallace
Thomas Jefferson Holland	J. M. Weaver
Cora Bertha Jones	

PASTORS

1. Landrum C. Ezell	1898-1902	
2. James C. Gillespie	1902-1905	
3. A. C. Irvin	1905-1907	
4. B. Monroe Bridges	1908-1909	
5. John W. Suttle	1909-1910	
6. R. C. Campbell	1910-1911	
7. James C. Gillespie	1911-1914	(His second pastorate)
8. Allen Harold Sims	1914-1917	
9. R. C. Campbell	1917-1918	(His second pastorate)
10. Willis Edward Lowe	1918-1919	
11. W. G. Moore	1919-1921	
12. James C. Gillespie	1921-1926	(His third pastorate)
13. D. Frank Putnam	1926-1931	
14. Rush Padgett	1931-1940	
15. J. R. Cantrell	1941-1951	
16. Dr. R. C. Campbell	1951-1954	(His third pastorate)
17. W. P. Hall, Jr.	1954-1961	
18. J. Edgar Bishop	1962-1973	
19. Dr. Clyde D. Chapman	1973-	

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH SEPTEMBER 1898 – JUNE 1978

In the section of Cleveland County that we now know as Poplar Springs community, some Baptist brethren felt the need for a local church. These men requested that deacons and pastors from a number of churches meet with them at Shanghai School for the purpose of organizing a church. The Reverend Tom Dixon presided over the meeting which was held on Septem-



Rev. Tom Dixon.

ber 3, 1898. (Rev. Dixon was the first moderator for the Kings Mountain Association when it organized in 1851. He organized twenty Baptist churches, baptized over 6,000 persons and married more than 5,000 couples. He was never late for any of his services. He was the fifth pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shelby.)

After some preliminary remarks, the meeting was called to order and Brother Dovus Moore led in prayer. Upon a motion, Brother Moore was elected as chairman of the group and Brother Sidney Jones as secretary. Governor Vance Hawkins, William Aaron Lattimore, and John Calhoun Hamrick were appointed to solicit funds for the building. Alonzo Marion Hamrick and John Calhoun Hamrick were chosen to secure a location for the church building. Upon a call for subscription to the building fund, nineteen of those present responded with a total of \$213.

On September 8, 1898, a second meeting was held with Chairman Moore presiding and Brother Ranson Newton Hawkins leading in prayer. The Building Fund Committee reported that they had four more subscriptions to the building fund, amounting to \$43.50, and that ten of the original subscribers had increased their subscriptions by the amount of \$21.50, making

a total of \$278 in subscriptions. A new committee composed of Alonzo Hamrick, William Lattimore, and J. M. Davis were appointed to secure a location for the church building.

On September 14, 1898, the third meeting was called to order by Chairman Moore with Rev. Ranson Newton Hawkins leading the prayer. The committee on place reported: location secured. On motion the body decided to organize Wednesday, September 21, 1898, at 11:00 A. M. The Reverend Landrum C. Ezell was chosen to preach at the organization service and was authorized to bring Brothers R. F. Tredway, G. P. Hamrick, A. C. Irvin, and Z. D. Harrill. Brothers Ranson N. Hawkins, Thomas Jefferson Holland, and Sidney B. Jones were appointed to draw up Declarations of Faith.

On Wednesday, September 21, 1898, at 11:00 A. M., Poplar Springs Baptist Church was formally organized. After the singing of the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and the reading of scripture, prayer was offered by Rev. Tom Dixon. Upon a motion, Rev. Landrum C. Ezell was elected chairman and Brother S. D. Jones was elected clerk.

"Having the glory of God and the extension of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus in view and looking to the Holy Ghost for guidance the following persons regularly dismissed from the following churches holding letters in good and regular standing,"

FROM BOILING SPRINGS:

Jefferson Davis Pruitt
Martha Etta Pruitt
General Marion Moore
Marshall Morris Moore
John Matterson Moore
Elijah L. Holland

Rev. Ranson Newton Hawkins
Julia Ann Hawkins
Margaret Jane Moore
Mollie Moore
Jane Morehead

FROM MOUNT SINAI:

Joseph S. Hawkins
Cynthia Tate
William Thomas Ledbetter
Margaret Hesentine Ledbetter

Furman Monroe Ledbetter
William T. Hawkins
Nancy Hawkins

FROM SHELBY:

Malland Dovus Moore

FROM BEAVERDAM:

Thomas Jefferson Holland
Edward Stanhope Glasco
Charlie Wallace
Jonathan P. Barnett
John Calhoun Hamrick
William McSwain

Martha Jane Glasco
Minnie Ollie Glasco
Charlotte Madora Hamrick
Salida Miller McSwain
Mary Jane Glasco

FROM ZOAR:

Elizabeth Jane Dodd
David Crockett Dodd
Alice Estelle Dodd
John Ross Harrill
Martha Elizabeth ("Mattie") Harrill
Alonzo Marion Hamrick
Elnora Elizabeth Hamrick

Governor Vance Hawkins
Lizzie Lee Lattimore
Sarah Casandra Lattimore
William Aaron Lattimore
Cansas C. Morehead
J. M. Weaver

FROM GASTONIA:

Sidney Boyd Jones
Cora Bertha Jones

"The letters having been duly read upon by Brother Ranson Hawkins it was resolved that in the fear of God we thereby agree in the presence of each other and collectively to organize ourselves into a Missionary Baptist Church known by the name of Poplar Springs Church." (This name was chosen because of the large poplar trees around the spring at the foot of the hill.)

The small presbytery composed of the following brethren declared her a constituted church:

FROM BOILING SPRINGS:

W. H. Green
R. H. Green
J. L. Pruett

FROM MOUNT SINAI:

N. R. Hamrick
N. L. Harrill

FROM BEAVERDAM:

David Green

FROM SHELBY:

E. J. Lovelace
John Wray

FROM ZOAR:

S. E. Bostic
M. O. McEntire

MINISTERS:

Tom Dixon
Landrum C. Ezell
Z. D. Harrill
D. Frank Putnam

Upon the statement that Brethren Thomas Jefferson Holland and Edward Stanhope Glasco were ordained deacons of the Beaverdam Church, these men were unanimously elected deacons of the Poplar Springs Church and were recognized by the presbytery as officers of the infant church. Sidney B. Jones was elected church clerk and the Reverend Landrum C. Ezell was

elected pastor by acclamation, his salary being sixty dollars per year.



REV. LANDRUM C. EZELL

Landrum Ezell was born May 16, 1843, and was a native of Spartanburg, South Carolina. His wife, Martha, was the oldest daughter of Mike Barnett, the second pastor of Shelby's First Baptist Church. Rev. Ezell was ordained at Buffalo Church.



Land for the cemetery plot was given by Paxton Davis and Heirs.

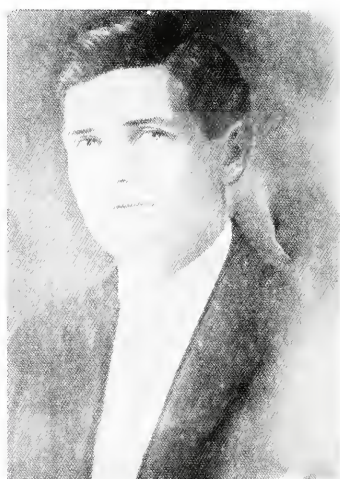
Land for a building and cemetery plot was given by Paxton Davis and heirs. Robert Hamrick and wife gave the church additional land. With Burl Blanton serving as foreman, the men of the church built the building. Built of wood, the structure was approximately forty feet by seventy feet. Though

it was not ceiled at the time it was built, some years later Ben Jones sawed the lumber for the ceiling and gave it to the church. On April 15, 1899, services were held in the new church building.

It was not until August of 1899 that a committee was appointed to secure benches for the church, and the minutes show that they were paid for in April of 1901, with a balance of forty cents in the church treasury. A good many years ago these benches were sold to Maple Springs Church, a neighboring Negro church, where they are still in use.



ORIGINAL CHURCH BENCH - 1901



L. R. Pruitt and Bun Brydges held first revival meeting at Poplar Springs Church in 1899.

During July of 1899 the church held its first revival meeting. L. R. Pruitt of Charlotte, along with Bun Brydges, assisted Preacher Ezell. (Rev. Brydges was the father of Mrs. R. Hubbard Hamrick of Shelby.) There were five professions of faith made during the revival.

On July 26, 1899, Sister Sallie Davis was the first church member to die. She was 35 years, 9 months, and 23 days old.

The infant church met its problems with great faith. Once during the early days, the building caught fire. While the men carried water from the spring to put out the fire, the women gathered under the back of the church; which was high off the ground, to pray. As the ladies prayed and the men worked, a thundercloud came up and the rain put out the fire!

The committee on discipline was a integral part of the church during these days. It was the committee's duty to investigate the actions of church members that might require disciplinary measures. The rules of discipline for church members were strict. A member could be brought before the church for non-attendance, quarreling, lying, using ugly language, drinking, and yes, even for failing to pay his pledged subscription to the church. If a member missed many meetings without good reason, his name was dropped from the church roll.

In August of 1899 the church elected its first delegates to attend the Kings Mountain Associational meeting: Edward S. Glasco and Thomas J. Holland.

On August 23, 1902, the baptismal pool, which still remains on our present grounds, was built. Now instead of going to Sugar Branch, west of the church, new members could be baptized just outside the church. On July 12, 1912, improvements were made on the pool.

The story has been told of a hugh old hollow poplar tree which stood near the location of the baptismal pool. Children played hide and seek and many hid in the hollow tree. When baptismal services were held the girls dressed in the wooden church building and the boys would change their clothes inside the hollow tree.



BAPTISMAL POOL - AUGUST 23, 1902



REV. JAMES C. GILLESPIE

On October 8, 1902, the church had a called conference for the purpose of electing a pastor to serve the next year. The Reverend James C. Gillespie was nominated and unanimously elected to serve an indefinite time. He was married to Mary Gettys, and they had four sons and one daughter. The eldest son, Arthur, became a Baptist missionary.

The church was anxious to follow New Testament teachings concerning the ordinances. Therefore, in November of 1902 the first communion service was purchased at a cost of \$2.60. The communion table was made by Bob Harrill, brother of Charlotte Madora Hamrick, a charter member.



COMMUNION TABLE BUILT BY BOB HARRILL - 1902
ORIGINAL COMMUNION SET PURCHASED - 1902

In February of 1903 the church requested that the moderator appoint a collector for each of the different pledges of the association. The following people were appointed collectors:

- William T. Hawkins.....Foreign Missions
- Carry Pruitt.....Home Missions
- Sarah Casandra Lattimore.....Education
- John Matterson Moore.....Orphanage
- Mollie Moore.....State Missions
- Alonzo M. Hamrick.....Aged and Interim Ministers

In May of 1903 the church voted to buy envelopes for church collection.



Poplar Springs Baptist Church Singing School taught by J. B. Biggers in the early 1900's (In the background is the original wooden church building, the only picture of the church to be found.)

The church building was finally dedicated on the fourth Sunday of May 1905, exactly five years after the church was built. Although James C. Gillespie was now the pastor, Rev. Landrum Ezell came back to preach the dedicatory sermon. During this year the first sexton was hired at a salary of six dollars per year. (According to our minutes, Bunion Jones was elected sexton six years later in 1911 to “keep church in first class order.” His salary was raised to one dollar per month, with the following committee appointed to collect his salary: Sidney Jones, John M. Moore, and M. O. Moore.)



REV. A. C. IRVIN

On September 2, 1905, A. C. Irvin was called as pastor and served through 1907. Rev. Irvin was loved by everyone who knew him. After the War

Between the States, in which he served as private, he came home and "fitted himself to preach." It has been said that he perhaps preached in every Baptist church in the county, and he often prayed in the churches of other denominations.

Rev. Irvin was twice married: he first married Harriet Weathers and they had two children, and later he married Maira Jane Crowell and they had three children.



REV. B. MONROE BRIDGES

The Reverend B. Monroe Bridges was called as pastor on January 2, 1908. Rev. Bridges was born April 19, 1854, and died March 25, 1928. He was married to Alice Melinda Blanton Bridges, who was born April 14, 1855, and died March 22, 1934. They had seven children.

In September of 1908, Thomas J. Holland and M. Dovus Moore were elected as delegates to the associational meeting to be held in November at the First Baptist Church of Shelby. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the relationship of local churches to Boiling Springs High School, which later became Gardner-Webb College. As a result of this meeting, Poplar Springs appointed a committee to see how much money could be raised for the school in the next three years. Twenty dollars was given in May of 1909 to furnish one room at the school. Even at this early date, the church was interested in Christian education.



Boiling Springs Boarding School which became Gardner-Webb College.



REV. JOHN W. SUTTLE

The Reverend John W. Suttle was elected as pastor on January 3, 1909. He was to preach each fourth Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 A. M. Rev. Suttle was born in 1872, converted at the age of eight, and licensed to preach when he was seventeen. He was married to the former Leila Pierson of Blacksburg, South Carolina. They had four children: Bertie Lee, Charles Batie, Esther Barbara, and Mary Elizabeth.



REV. R. C. CAMPBELL

R. C. Campbell was called as pastor in 1910, while he was a student at Boiling Springs High School. During this same year, the deacons went to Big Springs Baptist Church to participate in the ordination of Rev. Campbell.

Dr. Campbell often said that while he was a student at Boiling Springs, he

would wear his shoes as he walked out of Boiling Springs but would remove them when he was well out of the town. As he neared Poplar Springs, he would put his shoes back on. This was done in an attempt to save shoe leather.

REV. JAMES C. GILLESPIE - SECOND PASTORATE

In 1911 Rev. James C. Gillespie came back for his second pastorate, at a salary of \$150 per year. This salary was raised to \$200 per year in 1912.

The little church was growing. By now the building and baptismal pool had been built, and the church had acquired benches, a communion table and set, and envelopes. In October of 1912 a new Packard reed organ was purchased from T. Green of Lattimore. Twenty-four copies of the Baptist Hymnal and two large copies for the organ and pulpit were purchased in January of 1913 at a cost of \$4.95.

In September of 1914 the Kings Mountain Association met with Poplar Springs for the first time. Rev. J. R. Miller preached the Introduction Sermon. Rev. John W. Suttle was the moderator, and J. J. Lattimore was the associational clerk.



REV. ALLEN HAROLD SIMS

Allen Harold Sims was called as pastor and preached his first sermon on December 26, 1914. Rev. Sims was born in Towns County, Georgia, on June 6, 1855. His parents were John Littleton and Sarah Ann Byers Sims. He was a grandson of Elder Robert Byers and a great-grandson of Elder Joseph Byers, who was a colaborer with Elder Humphrey Posey.

Rev. Sims was converted in October of 1869 at Tekoah Baptist Church, Fanning County, Georgia, and was baptized by his grandfather, Robert Byers,

that same month. He was called to preach early in life and was ordained at Shoals Creek Baptist Church, Jackson County, North Carolina, on October 19, 1881.

Rev. Sims organized two churches and pastored numerous others in Western North Carolina and in the Kings Mountain Association during his ministry. When his throat began giving him considerable trouble, he was forced to retire from the ministry.

He married twice. His first wife was Sarah Hannah Maney. Two children were born to this union.

His second marriage was to Mary Robinson. Two children were added to this union also.

REV. R. C. CAMPBELL - SECOND PASTORATE

After Rev. Sims resigned on August 11, 1917, R. C. Campbell was called for the second time on September 9 that same year.

In 1918, Broughton Petty, a church member, bought a Seth-Thomas clock for eleven dollars from John Melton, a watchmaker in the New House section, and gave the clock, to the church.

The same year a committee was appointed to purchase a large bell for the church. The committee was composed of Winslow Jones, Joe Wesson, Dovus Moore, John Calhoun Hamrick, and Broughton Petty. The bell was purchased from Washburn's Hardware in Shelby and was carried by mule and wagon to the church, where it was hung in the old wooden church steeple. One church member said, "It vibrated the whole church when it was rung." It is believed that because of its vibrations the steeple was left off the brick church. The bell is now mounted in the churchyard and is still rung each Sunday morning and evening at the appointed hours.



REV. WILLIS EDWARD LOWE

Willis Edward Lowe was elected pastor on December 2, 1918, and served for one year.

On the first Sunday in October 1936, Rev. Lowe was preparing to go to his church, the Pleasant Hill Church, for the morning service when the call to go home came. A runner carried the news of his death to his waiting congregation at Pleasant Hill.

Mrs. Lowe, who was twenty years younger than her husband, went to live with her son, Willis Edward, Jr., who worked at that time for J. P. Stevens and Company in Greensboro, North Carolina.



REV. W. G. MOORE

W. G. Moore was called to Poplar Springs on November 2, 1919, coming to us from the Boiling Springs Baptist Church. He was a very popular pastor, who not only preached forceful sermons but also mixed and associated with his people.

REV. JAMES C. GILLESPIE - THIRD PASTORATE

On September 28, 1921, the church called James C. Gillespie as pastor for the third time at a salary of \$400 per year.

Oil lamps had been used in the church until 1924, but during Rev. Gillespie's pastorate a carbide lighting system was installed.



REV. D. FRANK PUTNAM

Rev. Gillespie was succeeded by Rev. D. Frank Putnam on October 17,

1926. Rev. Putnam was married to Eliza Spangler and they had one daughter, Lois.

In 1929, under the leadership of Rev. Putnam, the church erected a modern building which cost approximately \$15,000 and was surpassed by very few country churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The first floor of this building is our former sanctuary, and the basement is still in use as classrooms. When the old church building was torn down to make way for the new, the lumber was salvaged and was used in the erection of a house in



House in the community that was erected from the wooden church building.

the community. (This house was located on the Mt. Sinai Church Road but has since been burned by the fire department.)

The first service was held in the new church in December of 1929. The Building Committee was composed of Datha Elliott, John C. Hamrick, Joe Wesson, John B. Wallace, Winslow Jones, Alonzo Hamrick, Sidney Jones, and Rev. Putnam. A. C. Brackett built the structure.



SECOND CHURCH BUILDING
COMPLETED DECEMBER 1929



INTERIOR OF THE SECOND CHURCH
BUILDING SANCTUARY

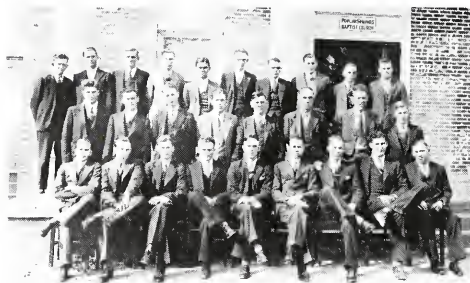


REV. RUSH PADGETT

Rush Padgett came to Poplar Springs as pastor on October 11, 1931. He was married to Carrie Bridges and they had two children: Rush, Jr., and Fidelia.

Although the principal part of the cost of the building had been paid, the Depression caught the church with an indebtedness of \$3,600. The church turned in real earnest to the "Lord's Acre," and in three years members had ginned ninety-nine bales of cotton and the ladies had sold chickens. Thus was the debt paid - - with \$400 leftover in the treasury!

The new church building was dedicated in 1934 on Thanksgiving Day. Rev. Rush Padgett was in charge of the service; Dr. Zeno Wall preached the sermon; and Rev. D. Frank Putnam led in prayer. The program was followed by a picnic dinner which consisted of nineteen turkeys and so much of everything that it was a real feast.



YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS - 1933 Allen Jones, Teacher, Clarence McCraw, Assistant Teacher.

Left to right first row: Forrest Jones, Joe Moore, Bemus Lemons, Frank Anthony, Archie Queen, Eddison Noggle, Lester Spain, J. T. Martin, Vaudrey Hamrick.

Second Row: Rex Ledbetter, Marvin Anthony, Boyd Anthony, Allen Jones, Rev. Rush Padgett, Clarence McCraw, Virgil Brooks, Roy Moore.

Third Row: Alvie Jones, Charlie Anthony, James DeBrew, Ralph Spain, Raymond Queen, Grady Hamrick, Theron Patrick, Roy Splawn, Frank Holland, Solomon Anthony.



REV. J. R. CANTRELL

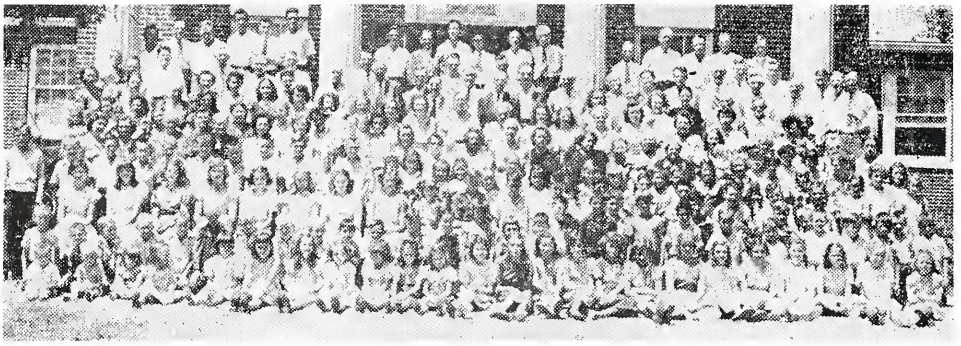
When Rev. Padgett was forced to resign due to ill health in 1940, the Reverend J. R. Cantrell was called as pastor in 1941. Rev. Cantrell also served as president of Gardner-Webb College from 1938 to 1942. He and his wife, Lettie Henderson, had four children: Leatha, Cleatus, John, and Grace.

At the beginning of his ministry, the church voted to hold services each second and fourth Sunday mornings and evenings. In 1944 Mrs. J. R. Cantrell, the pastor's wife, organized the first Woman's Missionary Union. The W. M. U. began with just ten members. The first Vacation Bible School



SEXTON'S HOME BUILT - 1947

was held in the summer of 1947. A sexton's home was built on the church grounds in 1947 at a cost of \$3,600, and upon completion of the work on the house, it was debt-free. Indeed, Rev. Cantrell served the church well during his ten-year pastorate.



Out of 325 on roll, Poplar Springs Church in the Kings Mountain Association had 321 present on a recent Sunday when Dr. Zeno Wall was in a revival meeting there. If someone would have rounded that absent quarter, the church would have broken some sort of attendance record, to be sure! The above picture was taken on a Friday morning during the revival. Dr. Wall says the church was almost filled for every service, 15 joined the church, and one young man—Bryan Putnam—surrendered to preach the gospel and will enter Gardner-Webb this fall. Poplar Springs is one of our strong rural churches located near Boiling Springs. Rev. J. R. Cantrell is pastor.

DR. R. C. CAMPBELL - THIRD PASTORATE

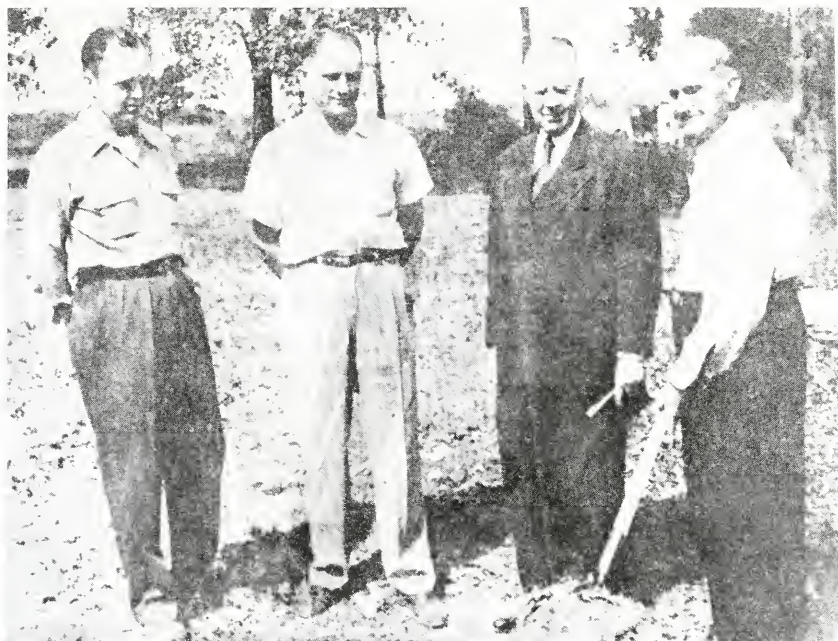
Dr. R. C. Campbell returned for the third time as pastor in 1951. He came out of retirement to accept this call. Poplar Springs was the first and last church he pastored.

A native of Rutherford County, Dr. Campbell attended Boiling Springs High School, Wake Forest College, and graduated from Carson-Newman College at Jefferson, Tennessee, in 1915. Later he graduated from South-western Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Campbell was the son of R. P. and Lettie Melton Campbell and was married to Ella McCurry.

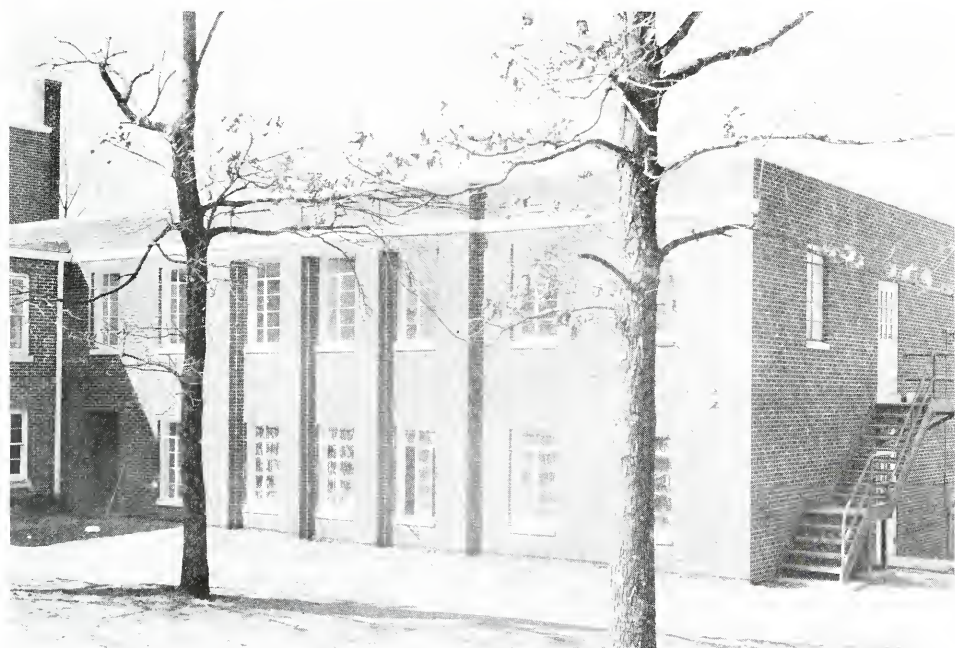
In addition to fruitful ministries as pastor and evangelist, Dr. Campbell was the author of sixteen books. He was elected vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1953.

During Dr. Campbell's pastorate, a church library was begun in 1951 with Miss Mary Jane McSwain serving as librarian. The first Brotherhood was organized in 1952 with an enrollment of sixty men. Jack Mercer was the first Brotherhood president.

An educational plant was constructed and completed in March of 1954 at a cost of \$45,000. The two-story brick educational plant was occupied the second Sunday in April 1954. Building committee members were: John Berry Hamrick, James DeBrew, A. T. Hamrick, J. D. Elliott, Purvis I. Wesson, Grady Hamrick, and Sam C. Lattimore. Clarence Morrison was the Contractor, and Van Wageningen and Cothran were the architects.



GROUND BREAKING FOR EDUCATIONAL BUILDING. Left to right: John Berry Hamrick, James DeBrew, Dr. R. C. Campbell and Winslow Jones.



EDUCATIONAL BUILDING COMPLETED - APRIL 1954.

Several months after his resignation from Poplar Springs, Dr. Campbell died in Virginia while on a speaking engagement.



REV. W. P. HALL, JR.

The church began its full-time program the first Sunday in March 1954 with Rev. W. P. Hall, Jr., serving as pastor at a salary of \$4,500. Rev. Hall, his wife Mary, and their son Edwin moved to our community from Abner's Creek Church in South Carolina.

With the church now holding weekly services, the deacons began meeting monthly. The first Sunday in each month was designated for church conference. The church established a policy of conducting two revivals each year.

On January 29, 1956, the church voted to build a pastorium on the southeast corner of the church parking lot. The pastor appointed a Parsonage Committee composed of the Finance Committee, the deacons, and the trustees, with Shaw Moore as chairman. (Mr. Moore died on March 17, 1972.)



PASTORIUM BUILT - 1956.

The year 1956 was a significant one year for the church. In February the

church basement was fully renovated. In the summer the parsonage was completed at a cost of \$25,000. And on October 7 the church purchased a Hammond electric organ.



Hammond Electric Organ purchased Oct. 7, 1956.

When Rev. Hall moved from our community on August 1, 1961, to accept the pastorate of Kings Creek Church of Lenoir, North Carolina, the Reverend James Wilder came as supply pastor. During the ten months that Rev. Wilder supplied, the church began the rotation system of electing deacons. In December 1961 the nursery department was completely modernized.



Bible Schools held during Rev. Hall's tenure.



REV. J. EDGAR BISHOP

On May 6, 1962, the Reverend J. Edgar Bishop came as pastor. When the Bishops came to this area, they first served churches in the Sandy Run Association and then came to Poplar Springs from the New Prospect Church near Shelby.

The Bishops are originally from the mountains of North Carolina. Rev. Bishop is the eldest of eight children born to Grover and Mattie Morgan Bishop of Sylva, North Carolina. His wife, Gracie Belle Dills, was affectionately called "Gracie." The Bishops have two sons, Harold and Hayes. Harold, his wife Barbara, and their son "Mike" live in Shelby; Hayes, his wife Ernestine, and their daughter Shelia live in Charlotte.

Under Rev. Bishop's leadership, the Church Council was organized. A visual aids ministry was established, and a monthly newspaper, "The Communicator," was published. On March 22, 1964 two ministerial students, Donald G. Ledbetter and Wray Edwards, were licensed to preach. Three additional acres of land adjoining the church property were purchased.

By now the church felt the need for additional staff members. A paid, part-time music director, Mrs. Bobby White, was employed. Mrs. Don



Mrs. Don Wesson, first church secretary, employed December 1963.

Wesson was employed as part-time secretary in December 1963 and worked faithfully in that position until July 23, 1972. In the summer of 1964 the church employed Donald G. Ledbetter as youth director.

More space was needed for worship, education and recreation. Therefore, in April of 1963 a long-range planning committee was appointed by the deacons to study the most effective and practical way to acquire the much-needed space. Serving on this committee were David Hamrick, chairman; Lawrence Bridges, John Berry Hamrick, Mrs. Brossie Hamrick, and Mrs. James DeBrew.



STUDY COMMITTEE FOR FUTURE BUILDING PLANS APPOINTED: APRIL, 1963
Left to right: Mallie Hamrick, Lawrence Bridges, John Berry Hamrick, David Hamrick; Chairman, and Ruth DeBrew.

In June 1967, just four years later a building committee was elected: John Berry Hamrick, chairman; Fred Cash, Shaw Moore, Purvis Wesson, Elmer Wheelus, Ralph Elliott, Mrs. Robert Jones, Mrs. Randy Mull, and Mrs. Floyd Queen.



Building Committee for New Sanctuary and Educational Building Appointed June, 1967; left to right: Mrs. Robert Jones, Mrs. Floyd Queen, Purvis Wesson, Elmer Wheelus, Fred Cash, Carl DeBrew, and seated John Berry Hamrick, Chairman. (Brenda Mull and Ralph Elliott committee members were not present when photo was taken.)

Construction of the two-story building to house the sanctuary, recreation facilities, pastor's study, office, and classrooms was begun in April of 1969.



Ground breaking for sanctuary and educational building April, 1969.

Completed in May of 1970, the building cost \$359,000, including its furnishings. Holland and Riviere, Architects, designed the structure, and T. C. Strickland was the contractor.



Completed May, 1970



Interior of Sanctuary

On March 22, 1970 the church ordained Donald Ledbetter to the ministry. After finishing Crest High School Don went to Gardner-Webb College, Carson Newman College, and then to Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest. He has served as pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Brookneal, Virginia and Pastor of Boylan Heights Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Don is now back in Cleveland County and is serving the New Bethel Baptist Church in Lawndale, N. C. as their Pastor.

On August 2, 1970, the church extended a call to Mrs. Allen Dixon to serve as church music director. Mrs. Dixon coordinates the music program of our church and has established a graded choir program.



Mrs. Allen Dixon employed as church Music Director, August 2, 1970 (Established the first graded choir program)



Church Bus given November 1971.

Mr. Earl Owensby, one of our members, gave the church a bus in November 1971. It is because of Mr. Owensby's generosity that a bus ministry was begun. The bus provides transportation for youth activities, Bible School, Sunday School, Church Training, and choir functions.

Due to approaching retirement, Rev. Bishop resigned as pastor in October of 1972 but worked until the last of March 1973. Rev. C. C. Crow came to serve as interim pastor, serving until June of 1973.

On March 4, 1973, a committee was appointed by the church to repair and update the parsonage, which had been built in 1956. The committee was composed of Charles Jones, chairman; Alvie Jones, Elmer Wheelus, Henry Wesson, Mrs. John Wesson, Mrs. Earl Owensby, and Mrs. Lyman Jones. This remodeling was completed in June of 1973 at a cost of \$11,600.



Larry Turner Youth Corp worker June, 1973.

Larry Turner, a student at Gardner-Webb College, came to our church as a Youth Corp worker in June 1973. The youth participated in many activities during the summer months and playground equipment was purchased. On August 19 Larry was employed as a part-time educational director, working with all organizations of the church.



DR. CLYDE D. CHAPMAN

In February of 1973 our church extended a call to Dr. Clyde D. Chapman,

and he began his ministry here on June 3, 1973. Dr. and Mrs. Chapman came to us from the First Baptist Church of Spencer, North Carolina. Dr. Chapman, a native of the Dover Mill section of Cleveland County, graduated from Lattimore High School and Wake Forest College, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He holds the Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. Mrs. Chapman is the former Sue Whitesides of Rutherford County. The Chapmans have two children: Dr. David Chapman of Hendersonville, North Carolina, and Mrs. Robert E. Bailey of Cary, North Carolina.

In September of 1973 the church voted to enter the student interim program of Gardner-Webb College. Under this program Dr. Chapman works with a college student majoring in Christian Education in an instructional and advisory capacity. Bobby Stafford of Winston-Salem was the first of these students to begin the program at our church.

October 28, 1973, was a historic day for the church. It was on this date that Poplar Springs Baptist Church celebrated its 75th anniversary, and special services for the anniversary were planned months ahead. A goal of 400 was set for Sunday School and there were 437 present.

At the 11:00 A. M. service special recognition was given to former members, descendants of the charter members, and those who had been church members for fifty years or longer.

Then followed a slide presentation of the church's history. David Hamrick narrated as color slides, photographed by Paul Lemmons, were shown. Gary Frazier was the projectionist.

Following the historical slide presentation, the congregation participated in an old-time worship service. The service began as choir members playing the roles of charter members had conversations typical of that day. The Reverend Landrum C. Ezell, the first pastor of the church, was played by Don Wesson. Dressed in clothing of that era, Mr. Wesson read scripture and preached a sermon. Mrs. Allen Dixon played the pump organ. A choir composed of Gene Lattimore, Plato Bridges, Jean Lovelace, Fannie Wesson, Floyd Queen, Mrs. Floyd Queen, Hattie Wilson, Mrs. L. D. Reynolds, and Connie Killmeyer sang a special, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and then led the congregation in old hymn favorites. The ushers, Brossie Hamrick, Wayne Hamrick, Dale Winn, Earl Owensby, Henry Wesson, Robert Jones, and Gay Putnam, took up the morning offering in hats. One of the original benches in the old wooden church and the first communion table were part of the set decoration.

Most of the congregation came dressed in costumes from the early 1900's. The church was filled to capacity and chairs were placed in the balcony, as

well as up and down the aisles. Attendance at the service was estimated at 650 to 700.

Immediately following the service lunch was served on the grounds and included dishes typical of the era, such as cracklin' bread, greens, ham, persimmon puddin', sweet tater puddin', ginger cakes, and old-fashion stack cake. There was homemade butter and even fresh buttermilk. Everyone seemed to enjoy the taste table even more than the fourteen picnic tables filled with food.

At 2:00 P. M. everyone was invited to the fellowship hall to go through the historical room. Members of the church had brought old tools, pictures, dishes, churns, chairs, rockers, quilts, bedspreads, and numerous items that were 50 to 150 years old. Mr. Alvie Jones brought a newspaper that was published in 1898, the year our church was founded. One of the features in the historical room was a display of the forty-five charter members' pictures. We were able to find all but four of their pictures.

Those attending the celebration were given booklets with old-time recipes, some old cures, sayin's, weather signs, and plantin' time, along with a recipe for homemade lye soap.

The committee responsible for planning the activities of that day were: Grady Hamrick, Mrs. John Berry Hamrick, Mrs. Oren Wyatt, Mrs. Bill Philbeck, Gene Lattimore, Floyd Queen, and A. T. Hamrick.

As a result of the research for the 75th Anniversary, pictures of all the pastors who have served the church were reproduced and framed with engraved nameplates and the dates each pastor served the church. These pictures now hang in our foyer along with a painting of the original wooden church building painted by a local artist, Barbara Brock. One of the original benches and the communion table were refinished. Also the first communion set of 1902 was displayed in a glass case made by Mr. Alvie Jones, one of our members. These items are now on display in the church foyer.

The 75th Anniversary celebration led us to reflect on the contributions of the church in the past and to renew our commitment to serve the Lord in the present.

The church has always strived to keep its buildings and grounds in good condition. In 1973 air conditioners were purchased for two of the preschool classrooms. The church ceilings were lowered and repaired, and new electrical wiring was installed throughout the old church basement. The youth departments in this area were paneled and all the basement area was carpeted. The church utility building was repaired and enlarged, and the outside of the church and parsonage were painted. An industrial-type lawnmower and leaf blower were purchased. The present church property is valued at \$850,000.

The church has always been proud of its large number of young people. We have tried, therefore, to provide them with activities, space, and equipment. A church member poured the concrete for a double tennis court, and the church extended it on each side with additional concrete to make it a regulation tennis, basketball, and volleyball court. We also put up goalpost and painted and lined the court in order to make an excellent recreational facility. A sound-amplifier system was purchased to be used by the music department for youth musicals and dramas and similar church programs. Because puppets are widely used in drama to convey truths, our church purchased five puppets.



Recreational facilities: Regulation tennis, basketball, and volleyball court.



Outdoor grill with remembrance plaque to Deacon Brossie Hamrick who died July 4, 1977.

During the summer of 1974 and 1975 Mr. Bob Decker was employed as part-time Educational Director. Activities were planned for every age group. Everyone enjoyed the summer's activities.

The year 1974 marked several new ventures for the church. We sponsored a World Missions Conference during March 31 - April 5, with an attendance of 963 for the week. In August of 1974 we added a new Sunday School department: the College and Career Department. We also participated in the county-wide meals for senior citizens program.

Our church feels extremely fortunate that we have a Baptist college nearby. Many young couples from Gardner-Webb College join our church and actively participate in all our programs. We have ordained one college student to the ministry: Gary Frazier on May 26, 1974. We have recommended several students for admission to the Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina: Bobby Stafford in October 1973, Mike Barrett in November 1974, and Kenneth Batts in October 1975. We approved Kenneth Batts and Donna Wease for Christian Education Scholarships at Gardner-Webb College in March 1975. That same month Jackie and Novella McClung, former members who are now working as missionaries at Stewart Baptist Center in Atlanta, told of their experiences as missionaries.

In 1977 four more students were endorsed by our church, making them eligible for any scholarships that might be available to students who are going into full-time Christian service. Mike Frazier and Kenneth Stalls were endorsed in March; Fritz Evans in April, and Linda Dixon in June.

In September 1977 Kenneth Stalls and Fritz Evans were both recommended for acceptance at Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. On February 26, 1978 Donna Wease was recommended for acceptance at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mr. A. T. Hamrick, a long time member and ordained deacon in our church passed away on January 28, 1977. Mr. Hamrick was the oldest male member of our church.

The church employed its first part-time secretary in December 1963. In January 1977 the church voted to make the church secretary a full-time position. Mrs. Randy Mull, who has been the church secretary since August 1972 continued her employment as the full time secretary.



Mrs. Brenda Bridges Mull employed January 1977 as the first full-time church secretary.

January 1976, church members were issued individual boxed envelopes to use for their church offering. Prior to this time envelopes were available for tithes and offerings at the church.

In February, 1977 the deacons recommended a pictorial directory be made for the church in the spring. The church approved the directory and also additional funds for the cover of the directory to be made in color. The photograph on the cover would be the interior of the new sanctuary taken at one of our worship services. The directories were given to church members in September. Everyone was very pleased with them. Many of our church members served as hostesses during the picture taking, but a great deal of praise goes to the church secretary, Mrs. Randy Mull and Mrs. Henry Wesson, Chairman of the committee, for their hard work and the responsibilities they accepted in order to get the directory completed.

On the first Sunday of June, 1977, Dr. and Mrs. Chapman were honored on their fourth anniversary as pastor of our church. Several speakers expressed their appreciation for the Chapmans and a love offering was taken for them at the worship hour.

Robert Decker, Jr. was hired to direct special summer activities from June 20th through August 14th, 1977. He planned activities for all age groups of the church.

In August the Church Council sponsored an "Appreciation Banquet" for all church workers. A church music school was conducted August 21-23, sponsored in part by the Music Department of the N. C. State Baptist Convention. Mr. Clyde Buckner, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Forest City, N. C. was the director.

Sunday September 18th, 1977, the church voted to renovate the old sanctuary and enlarge the present choir rooms, rewire the first floor of the old part of our church. On December 4, 1977; before the work was completed, the deacons recommended air-conditioning the remaining part of the church. The church voted and approved the recommendation. The work was completed the last of April 1978.

At the beginning of the church year 1977-1978 under the direction of our new church Librarian, Mrs. Vickie Walker, many improvements were made in the Church Media Center.

The library room was painted a bright warm shade of yellow, new draperies were hung, an electric pencil sharpener and a card catalogue cabinet were purchased. A reading table with four cushioned chairs were donated.

Mrs. Walker dedicated herself to the task of organizing our media center according to the guidelines of our Church Library Department in Nashville

Tennessee and in consideration of our own church program needs. She has averaged more than 20 hours per week of her time to accomplish an effective library center that would contribute to the ministry of educating our minds and souls.

A complete inventory was taken and 367 books were missing from the shelves. Everyone was encouraged to look for books in their homes. The church family responded and all but 145 books were returned.

Mrs. Walker and her able staff; Bonnie Price, Shirley Lail, and Sarah Stamey have classified, accessioned, and catalogued 1250 books. Many damaged books have been repaired, our periodical section has been updated and bound. We now have a section of catalogues from 50 colleges, Technical Schools, Universities, and Seminares.

The media center has been promoted through bulletin board displays, posters, the church newsletter and church bulletins. A Readathon was sponsored. Scheduled library hours have been established and posted.

Mrs. Walker attended the Library Conference at Ridgecrest July 1-7, 1978 for a week of training and learning. As a result of this week and many hours of work and study she is ready to qualify for the Media Services Diploma with the Media Skills-Teacher and Leaders Seal.

Indeed we are proud of our growing library center which enriches our minds and can enable us to serve our Heavenly Father better.

On May 21, 1978 the church approved the employment of Mrs. Lonnie Proctor for a ten week period as summer Activities Director. Mrs. Proctor stated that the purpose of the summer program would be to provide opportunities in which the whole person of all ages might be reached and developed for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The program would also be an integral part of the total ministry and seek to complement, undergird, and strengthen all of the other ministries and organizations of the church.

The first \$100,000.00 budget was adopted for the 1975-1976 church year in the amount of \$101,904.26. The budget for 1976-1977 year was \$110,012.26; the 1977-1978 budget was the largest ever, \$126,515.47.

The Harvest Day offering, which goes for church debt retirement, originated with the planning of the new church building. The excitement of paying off the church debt has shown in the amount of the offerings that have been collected. In 1973 \$7,504.91; 1974 \$7,670.56; 1975 \$10,010.00; 1976 \$12,611.59; and in 1977 \$13,631.36.

As the mission program in our church has strengthened so has our mission offerings. In 1973 our Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions

amounted to \$1,088.86; in 1974 we received \$1,687.36; in 1975 \$1,281.56; in 1976 \$1,621.85; and in 1977 \$1,491.44. We were extremely proud of the 1978 offering that was given in the amount of \$1,833.43.

In December of 1976 we reached an all-time high for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions in the amount of \$2,652.27. In 1973 we gave \$2,431.00; in 1974 \$2,093.00; in 1975 \$2,371.40; and in 1977 \$2,394.30.

In 1972 the church voted to put \$150.00 in the budget for State Missions; and if anyone wished to contribute above this amount they could do so. In 1977 the missions organization promoted the offering and we received \$538.49. In 1972 and 1973 only the \$150.00 budgeted was given, but in 1974 we gave \$305.59, 1975 \$193.05 was given; and in 1976 \$198.00 was contributed.

We are thankful for all those who have made professions of faith through the years. Seven were baptized in 1973; six in 1974; five in 1975; fifteen in 1976; and eleven in 1977. Thus far, in 1978 eight have been baptized.

Our present church membership is: 537 resident members, 215 non-resident members, making a total membership of 752.

We must appreciate the progress of Poplar Springs Church when we recall that the church has survived the Depression and several wars, has witnessed many changes in its buildings, has purchased more land, and has been served by numerous ministers who preached behind her sacred Bible stands. We feel that God has blessed our church richly and that many souls have been added to the Kingdom as a result of her ministry. However, our work is far from finished. As long as there is one person in our community who is lost and apart from God, we can never feel that the ministry of our church has been completed.

May we as members, former members, and friends of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, dedicate ourselves and our resources to the end that God's work will be extended as our church continues to reach out in service and in love.







First services held in the wooden church - April 15, 1899

DESCRIPTION OF THE WOODEN CHURCH AND EARLY SERVICES

The first building was a one-room frame structure, approximate dimensions forty feet by seventy feet. At the front of the building were two paneled doors, each seven feet by three feet, and two double windows on either side of the doors. There were six sets of windows ten feet long down the sides of the building. There was one door on each side at the back of the structure. All the doors were stained brown and the doorknobs were made of porcelain. The roof consisted of homemade wood shingles from forest pine. The roof had a gable typical of the barn gables of that time. The roof had a twelve inch overhang all around the building. The structure was five feet off the ground in front, and you could stand under the building at back. The structure was supported by eight rock pillows about eight feet apart. There were three front steps about eight feet long made of wooden planks. The steeple, which housed the bell, was a six-foot square, and its four openings were about three feet by four feet. The steeple had a hip roof and was covered with shingles. There was no shrubbery around the church nor grass - - as was the custom in those days the yard was dirt and was swept clean. The building was painted white.

Inside there were two aisles with long benches in the center and shorter ones on each side. The women entered the church building at the right-hand door and sat on that side, with the men entering and sitting on the left-hand side.

Up front on the right side of the congregation was a corner with short benches for a choir. The opposite corner was identical but was called the Amen Corner. Only men sat in this section. One church member recalls that one faithful deacon always sat in the back row of the Amen Corner, chewed his tobacco, and during the services spit out the window directly behind him. This made an impression on her as a child because she wanted to take something in church to eat on, and she couldn't understand why this man could chew tobacco, yet she couldn't eat a snack.

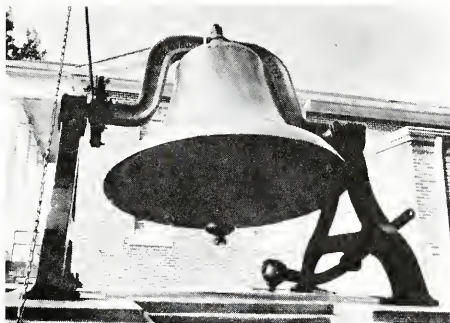
During the winter the sanctuary was heated with a large wood heater with long stovepipes overhead. Feet got rather cold during a long service in bad cold weather, but during the summertime with all the windows pushed out and the doors open to let air through (along with all kinds of insects), it was fine. The bottom half of the window pushed out and was held open with a stick. Summer revival, or "Big Meeting Week" as it was always called, was held about the second week in August after crops were laid by. This week was planned for and always looked forward to as one of the greatest activities of the church and community.

One interesting sidelight: often dogs would follow the family wagon or buggy to church and would trot through the aisles during preaching.

Sunday School was held most every Sunday after the church was organized, but preaching was held only on the fourth Saturday and Sunday mornings. Since the preacher usually pastored several churches, he took turnabout on Saturdays and Sundays preaching at the churches he pastored. It was the custom for members of the church to invite the preacher to stay with them on Saturday night of the weekend he preached at the church.

When the church was first built one teacher taught everyone the Sunday School lesson on Sunday mornings. Around the 1920's Poplar Springs petitioned the church with curtains and had what was known as "Card" classes. The Sunday School lesson was printed on a card about the size of a postal card along with the Bible verse for the day. The church then appointed teachers to teach the children's and adult classes, using the lesson on the cards.

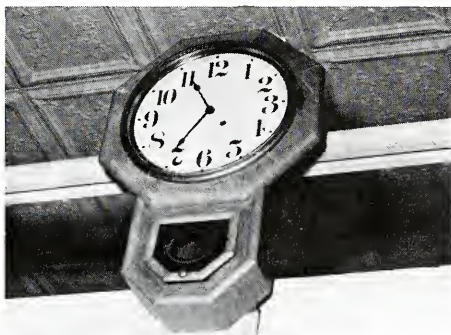
Church conference was always held during the Saturday services. The regular church conference was considered to be one of the most important functions of the church life. In these meetings all matters pertaining to the operation of the church were taken care of. Today we disburse money for various causes and purchases from our church treasury; however, when the early church voted to make a purchase or to give to a cause, a committee was appointed to collect the money from its members by a certain date. Also during the church conference the enforcement of regulations regarding the attendance and conduct of members was decided. Most offenders brought before the church confessed and requested the church to bear with them, which the church usually did. However, offenders who refused to make such acknowledgment or who were chronic offenders were exluded. Most of these excluded were later restored to the church fellowship when they repented and asked to become church members again.



Church Bell Purchased 1918
THE CHURCH BELL

In 1918 the church appointed a committee to purchase a large bell for the church. The committee was composed of Winslow Jones, Joe Wesson, Dovus Moore, John Calhoun Hamrick, and Broughton Petty. The bell was purchased from Washburn's Hardware in Shelby and was carried by mule and wagon to the church, where it was hung in the old wooden church steeple.

When there was a death in the community, the church bell was rung as soon as the news was learned. On the day the grave needed to be dug, which was usually the day before the funeral, the bell would ring the number of times denoting the hour to start digging the grave. Men would listen for the bell, and many of them came to be known as "the best diggers" in the community. It is said that two men would start digging a grave, and when the hole became large enough, they would jump down inside the hole, one on either side, and in a very short time the hole was dug. It is also noted that the walls were so straight they looked as if they might have been dug by a machine made especially for that purpose. The day of the funeral the bell was used to sound the hour for the funeral.



Church Clock given in 1918
THE CHURCH CLOCK

In 1918, Broughton Petty, a church member, bought a Seth-Thomas clock

for eleven dollars from John Melton, a watchmaker in the New House section, and gave the clock to the church. The clock was hung at the back of the sanctuary in direct line with the Pastor's pulpit stand.

The clock has always been a conversation piece for visitors. The large numbers on the clock always commanded the preacher's attention and served as a reminder to stop his sermons on time.

When the old sanctuary was recently renovated the clock was taken down. Because the clock was in need of repairs, the deacons authorized Grady Hamrick to have it repaired and to hang it in the back of the new sanctuary. On Saturday, June 10, 1978; the clock was hung at the back of the new sanctuary in direct line with the Pastor's pulpit stand. On Sunday Morning June 11th the congregation could hear the familiar tick-tock of the old clock, and of course the pastor began his remarks by calling our attention to the clock and reminding us that he would stop his sermons on time.



DRAMA FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 28, 1973

BY: VICKIE WYATT

INTRODUCTION:

We can see we have an exciting history here at Poplar Springs. Our people have experienced genuine growth as they have given of themselves, their time, and their money so we can worship in a comfortable, modern sanctuary. We owe much to those first charter members who expressed a love and faith in their church. Would you like to go back? Would you like to be a member of Poplar Springs back in 1900, shortly after the church was organized? Things would be different now! How?

Oh, the air would be soft and pure; there would be no pollution. The neighbors wouldn't be so busy; they'd come in and set up with the sick folks. There'd be no electric lights. You'd have no fly swatter, but you'd swing the fly brush to keep the flies off the table. You'd have no soft fluffy towels, but you'd use salt sacks. You'd have a "courting parlor" instead of a den. Kids, there'd be no fancy toys at Christmas - - just a stick of candy, an orange, and maybe a penny pencil. Ladies, there'd be no pre-packaged or frozen dinners; but you'd see pumpkin sliced and hung on quilting frames to dry. You would see soap made by the signs of the moon. There would be no shoe polish - - beef tallow was used for polishing boots. You could not buy instant coffee; it would be ground in a mill. You'd see such things as straw ticks, feather beds, blue back spellers, corn shuckers, molasses mills, trundle beds, and sassafras tea.

But what would you see in a church? There'd be no electric lights, no electric organs, no choir lofts. How would it feel to worship in a setting where things were so different? Come back with me. Back into time! Back to the time our church was only an infant. Back to 1900. Worship with us now as we join an enactment of a worship service of 1900, with Reverend Ezell as pastor.

PLAY

Several church members come down the aisle talking among themselves, nodding to members already seated. Reverend Ezell enters.

Rev. Ezell speaks: (Don Wesson)

I'm glad that you've taken time out to spend a few minutes in church. I see Brother Hawkins is back with us. Glad you're feeling better. Reckon you've all heard Brother Ledbetter and his family were blessed with a little baby daughter this week. Third baby girl. Wonderful! My, how the Lord has blessed this fine family. It's wonderful how he blesses all of us. The rain we've had just last Thursday, wonderful on our cotton crops. It's good to know the Lord is in His Heavens and watching over us. Let's thank Him. Let's all bow and pray while Brother Sid Jones leads.

Brother Jones: Prayer. (Robert Jones)

Rev. Ezell speaks:

Amen! Fine to talk with our Lord. Let's praise the Lord in song, now. Remember all he's done for us. Sister Moore, would you come lead?

Sister Moore rises from audience and goes to front. (Linda Dixon)

Mr. Glasco, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Pruitt, Mrs. Hamrick, you'll come sing now! Come on up.

Singers gather on stage. (Gene Lattimore, Plato Bridges, Jean Lovelace, Fannie Wesson, Floyd Queen, Mrs. Floyd Queen, Hattie Wilson, Mrs. L. D. Reynolds, and Connie Killmeyer.)

After singing has finished Rev. Ezell speaks:

How about you men passing the hat now? Remember we've pledged \$3.50 for missions this year in addition to things we'll need right here at our church. We can afford to be generous and share our money. Why, our church property has been valued to be worth \$500. Let's show the Lord we thank Him by our gifts, while our good sister plays the organ.

Passing of hat while organist plays pump organ. (Ushers, Brossie Hamrick, Wayne Hamrick, Dale Winn, Earl Owensby, Henry Wesson, Robert Jones, and Gay Putnam. Organist: Linda Dixon.)

After offering Rev. Ezell speaks:

Thank you, gentlemen. Let's turn now to the Holy Book, and look to what the Lord has to tell us about charity. I'm reading from Second Corinthians 13, verses 1-13.

Rev. Ezell reads that scripture, then begins his sermon:

It plain as day says here to love one another as Christ loves us! If Landrum Ezell doesn't love you and God, then no matter about the seventy-five dollars I make here each year pastoring the church. It'll profit me nothing! If the men and women of this church don't love one another, it profits us nothing to come out once a month on Sunday afternoon to a service like this. If we have malice and ill will in our hearts, then God can't bless us like he wants! He says in the Good Book that charity is kind, is not puffed up, thinketh no evil. Thinketh no evil! Brother Dodd, that's a hard one, ain't it? It's hard not to think evil thoughts when everything goes wrong in the field. When the rains don't come on the crops, but the weevils do! When it's so hot there's a drought! When your young'ns sick, and the Doc lives seven miles away. The Devil tempts us! It's easy to think evil thoughts. But this ain't right. It fails to right the problems. It fails to ease the pain of the one that's sick. But the Good Book says chairty never faileth. The Good Book says to hope all things, endure all things, and to rejoice in

the truth. Brother Moore, our Sunday School superintendent, rejoices in the truth of all of us that comes out to worship. We rejoice we have an average of thirty-five in Sunday School.

The Bible says someday we'll see face to face. Ain't that glorious, Brethern? Don't it thrill you to think of seeing Jesus, the Lamb of God, the one that loved us so much He died for us yonder on the Hill of Golgotha, so we could meet here at Poplar Springs and know we're saved. We praise His name for this!

Before we have our invitation, I want to remind you of our big brush arbor meeting down in Brother Glasco's pasture next month. Be praying God will be saving them that's lost. And now, Brother and Sister, if you want the prayers of the Dear Saints of the Church, if you're a poor sinner with no hope of meeting Jesus face to face, won't you turn your life over to him? Come down and we'll pray with you.

Invitation hymn. (Linda leading.)

Rev. Ezell speaks:

Truly the Lord's been here this morning. Let's bow for prayer. Dear God, thank you for what we've sung, what we've prayed, what we've read from the Book, and what we've seen just now, as your spirit moved. Thank you Lord. Now be with us 'til we meet next month - - In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

Preacher Ezell and his little congregation leave, talking quietly among themselves.

A partial list of church officers and the dates they served. Taken from the Kings Mountain Baptist Association Minutes. Blank spaces denote no minutes available or minutes did not list particular office that year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

E. S. Glasco	1899	Allen Jones	1928-1929
M. D. Moore	1900-1901		1930
	1902		1931
	1903		1932
	1904	J. D. Elliott	1933-1942
	1905	Leander Hamrick	1943-1948
	1906	James DeBrew	1949-1956
E. S. Glasco	1907	Gene Wilson	1957-1958
	1908	L. D. Reynolds, Jr.	1959-1960
J. R. Harrill	1909	David Hamrick	1961-1962
M. O. Moore	1910	Don Wesson	1963-1964
M. D. Moore	1911-1913	Carl DeBrew	1965-1967
S. B. Jones	1914	Odus Wease	1968
W. B. Petty	1915-1916	Carl DeBrew	1969-1972
	1917	James Petty	1973-1974
	1918	Odus Wease	1975-1976
S. B. Jones	1919	Bob Decker	1976-1977
J. D. Elliott	1920-1927	Tommy Wright	1977-1978

SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY

J. R. Harrill	1906-1907	Wake Hamrick	1916
G. V. Hamrick	1909	Cyrus Ledbetter	1919-1920
E. Clary	1910	Lowell Barnett	1922
William Lattimore, Jr.	1911-1912	Purvis Wesson	1923
Von Moore	1913-1914	Allen Jones	1924-1927
Quitman Jones	1915		

*Sunday School Secretary was considered a very important job during the early years. He kept up with all statistics of the church. After 1927 the minutes stopped listing secretaries.

B.Y.P.U. LEADERS AND B.T.U. DIRECTORS

No Union	1899-1926	Miss Alda Wilson	1941
Young People's work	1927	Miss Frances Bridges	1942
Mrs. Rex Ledbetter	1928-1933	No Union	1943-1944
Mrs. Alvie Jones	1934	Mrs. J. R. Cantrell	1945
Brossie Hamrick	1935	No Union	1946-1948
No Director	1936-1939	Mrs. Ralph Elliott	1949-1950
Mrs. Bryan Putnam	1940	Miss Mary McSwain	1951

Mallie Hamrick	1952	Phillip Annas	1971
Mrs. Bemus Lemons	1953-1955	Tommy Wright	1972-1973
Mrs. Paul Hamrick	1956-1957	Randy Mull	1973-1974
Howard Padgett	1958-1960	James Petty	1974-1975
Floyd Queen	1961-1964	Oren Wyatt	1975-1976
Odus Wease	1965-1967	Mrs. Herman O. Hamrick	1976-1977
Fred Cash	1968	Mrs. Herman O. Hamrick	1977-1978
Oren Wyatt	1969-1970		

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION PRESIDENTS

No organization	1899-1919	Mrs. Bryan Putnam	1950-1951
Mrs. J. E. Morehead	1920-1922	Mrs. Wake Hamrick	1952
Mrs. A. T. Hamrick	1923-1925	Mary Jane McSwain	1953
Mrs. Cree Hamrick	1926-1927	Mrs. Floyd Queen	1954-1955
	1928	Mrs. James DeBrew	1956-1957
	1929	Mrs. W. P. Hall, Jr.	1958-1959
	1930	Mrs. W. E. McSwain	1960-1961
	1931	Mrs. Floyd Queen	1961-1966
	1932	Mrs. Randy Mull	1967
Mrs. Wake Hamrick	1933-1934	Mrs. John Berry Hamrick	1968-1970
Mrs. Colon Edwards	1935-1936	Mrs. Charles Jones	1971-1972
Mrs. Wake Hamrick	1937-1938	Mrs. John Berry Hamrick	1973-1975
Mrs. A. T. Hamrick	1939-1940	Mrs. Robert Jones	1975-1977
Mrs. J. R. Cantrell	1941-1945	Mrs. Floyd Walker	1977-1978
Mrs. Grady Hamrick	1946-1949		

BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENTS ORGANIZED 1952

Jack Mercer	1952	Carroll Hamrick	1963-1964
Floyd Queen	1953-1954	Robert Jones	1965-1968
Lawrence Bridges	1955	Odus Wease	1969-1970
Bob White	1956	Paul Sorrells	1971-1972
James DeBrew	1957	Robert Jones	1973-1974
Carl Roberts, Jr.	1958	Oren Wyatt	1975-1976
Gordon Bridges	1959	Larry Anthony	1977-1978
Howard Padgett	1960-1962		

CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS

Minutes do not list	1899-1949	Ralph Elliott	1960-1961
J. D. Elliott	1950-1952	Gene Wilson	1962-1963
John Berry Hamrick	1953-1956	Fred Cash	1964-1965
L. D. Reynolds, Jr.	1957	Billy Ledbetter	1966
Bemus Lemons	1958	J. L. McSwain	1967
L. C. DeBrew	1959	Don Wesson	1968-1970

Robert Jones	1971	J. L. McSwain	1975
John Berry Hamrick	1972	James Petty	1976-1977
Carl DeBrew	1973	J. L. McSwain	1977-1978
Robert Jones	1974		

CHURCH TREASURER

	1899-1925	Carroll Hamrick	1955-1956
J. B. Wallace	1926-1929	E. L. Wheelus	1957-1958
	1930-1938	B. G. Ledbetter	1959-1960
Purvis Wesson	1939-1944	Mrs. Don Wesson	1961-1972
Gordon Bridges	1945-1946	Mrs. Randy Mull	1972-1978
Cree Hamrick	1947-1954		

CHURCH CLERK

S. B. Jones	1899-1901	S. B. Jones	1919-1924
	1902		1925
	1903	A. T. Hamrick	1926-1952
	1904	Gordon Bridges	1953-1956
	1905	Truman Wilson	1957-1963
A. M. Hamrick	1906-1907	Howard Padgett	1964
	1908	Ernest Hoyle	1965-1971
M. M. Moore	1909-1910	Grady Hamrick	1972-1973
E. L. Holland	1911-1914	Ernest Hoyle	1974-1975
V. O. Moore	1915-1916	Herman O. Hamrick	1976-1977
	1917	Herman O. Hamrick	1977-1978
	1918		

CHURCH LIBRARIAN

Miss Mary Jane McSwain	1951-1953	Mrs. Randy Mull	1966-1973
Miss Sara Jane Davis	1954	Mrs. Sarah Elliott	1974
Mrs. P. E. McSwain	1955-1957	Miss Patricia Jones	1975-1976
Mrs. Gay Putnam	1958-1963	No Librarian	1976-1977
Mrs. L. A. Rogers, Jr.	1964-1965	Mrs. Walter Walker	1977-1978

DATE	MUSIC DIRECTORS	PIANIST	ORGANIST
1944	R. F. Lancaster		
1945	Alvie Jones		
1946	James DeBrew		
1947	James DeBrew	Grace Harmon	
1948	James DeBrew	Evelyn Hamrick	
1949	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Lena Hamrick	
1950	Harvey Rogers	Evelyn Hamrick	
1951	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Rebecca Philbeck	
1952	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Gerald Wilson	

1953	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Gerald Wilson	
1954	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Evelyn Hamrick White	
1955	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Evelyn Hamrick White	
1956	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Jane Wilson	Evelyn Hamrick White
1957	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Jane Wilson	Evelyn Hamrick White
1958	David Hamrick	Jane Wilson	Evelyn Hamrick White
1959	Thurman Smith	Jane Wilson	Evelyn Hamrick White
1960	Jane Wilson	Betty Banning Jones	Carolyn Philbeck Wesson
1961	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Betty Banning Jones	Billy Lemons
1962	Dolores Smith Hamrick	Betty Banning Jones	Billy Lemons
1963	Evelyn Hamrick White	Betty Banning Jones	Wanda Edwards
1964	Evelyn Hamrick White	Betty Banning Jones	Wanda Edwards
1965	Evelyn Hamrick White	Betty Banning Jones	Wanda Edwards
1966	Evelyn Hamrick White	Jane Hamrick	Wanda Edwards
1967	Evelyn Hamrick White	Jane Hamrick	Wanda Edwards
1968	Evelyn Hamrick White	Gailya Wesson	Jane Hamrick
1969	Evelyn Hamrick White	Gailya Wesson	Jane Hamrick
1970	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle	Gailya Wesson
1971	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle	Gailya Wesson
1972	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson
1973	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson Hamrick
1974	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson Hamrick
1975	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson Hamrick
1976	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson Hamrick
1977	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson Hamrick
1978	Linda Lee Dixon	Teresa Hoyle Winn	Gailya Wesson Hamrick

*In 1912 when the first reed organ was purchased some of the early organist were: Sarah Casandra Lattimore, Miss Mollie Moore, Miss Loria Jones, Mrs. Thurman Hamrick, Miss Lola Wesson, and Mrs. Carl Roberts.

HISTORIC FACTS

September 3, 1898	First meeting held for the purpose of organizing church.
September 21, 1898	Wednesday 11 a. m. Poplar Springs was formerly organized.
September 21, 1898	Rev. Landrum C. Ezell was called as the first pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
April 15, 1899	First services were held in the wooden church building.
1899	E. S. Glasco was the first Sunday School Superintendent.
1899	S. B. Jones was the first Church Clerk.
July 16, 1899	First Revival meeting was held; L. R. Pruitt of Charlotte and Jasper Bunyan Brydges, were the preachers.
July 26, 1899	First church member died, Sister Sallie Davis. She was 35 years, 9 months, and 23 days old.
August, 1899	A committee was appointed to secure benches for the church building.
August, 1899	First delegates elected to attend the Kings Mountain Associational meeting. They were Edward S. Glasco and Thomas J. Holland.
1899	There were only 21 ordained ministers in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.
August 23, 1902	The first Baptismal Pool was built on the church grounds.
October 8, 1902	Rev. James C. Gillespie was called as the second pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
November, 1902	First communion service was purchased.
February, 1903	Committee was appointed to collect pledges made by the church to the Association for Foreign Missions, Home missions, Education, Orphanage, State Missions, aged, and Interim Ministers.
May, 1903	Purchased envelopes to put class collections in.

May 4, 1905	The new wooden church was dedicated.
September 2, 1905	Rev. A. C. Irvin was called as the third pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
January 2, 1908	Rev. B. Monroe Bridges was called as the fourth pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
January 3, 1909	Rev. John W. Suttle was elected as the fifth pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
May, 1909	Poplar Springs furnished a room for Boiling Springs Boarding School, which later became Gardner-Webb College.
1910	Rev. R. C. Campbell was called as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church; while he was a student at Boiling Springs High School.
1911	Rev. James C. Gillespie returned to Poplar Springs for his second pastorate.
1911	First Sexton was hired, Mr. Bunion Jones.
October, 1912	A Packard reed organ was purchased.
January, 1913	24 copies of the Baptist Hymnal with 2 large copies for organ and pulpit were purchased.
September, 1914	Poplar Springs was host to the Kings Mountain Association for the first time since its organization. Rev. J. R. Miller preached the introduction Sermon, Rev. J. W. Suttle was moderator and J. J. Lattimore was Associational Clerk.
December 26, 1914	Rev. Allen Harold Sims preached his first sermon as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
September 9, 1917	Rev. R. C. Campbell was called for the second time as pastor of Poplar Springs Church.
1918	Church bell was purchased.
1918	Clock for church was given by W. B. Petty.
December 2, 1918	Rev. Willis Edward Lowe was elected as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

- November 2, 1919 Rev. W. G. Moore was called as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
- 1920 Women's Missionary Union was organized with 28 members. Mrs. J. E. Morehead was W. M. U. President.
- September 28, 1921 Rev. James C. Gillespie was called to serve as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church for the third time.
- 1924 A carbide lighting system was installed in the church to replace oil lamps.
- October 17, 1926 Rev. D. Frank Putnam began his pastorate at Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
- 1926 The church participated in the Cooperative Program for the first time.
- 1927 Young People's work was begun on Sunday evenings; 52 young people were enrolled.
- December, 1929 Services were held in the first brick church building.
- October 11, 1931 Rev. Rush Padgett became pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
- 1933 Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.) was changed to Baptist Training Union (B.T.U.) to include not only young people, but all ages.
- 1941 Rev. J. R. Cantrell came to Poplar Springs Baptist Church while serving as President of Gardner-Webb College.
- 1947 First Vacation Bible School was held.
- 1947 Sexton's home was built.
- 1951 Dr. R. C. Campbell returned for the third time as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church
- 1951 Church library was begun.
- 1952 First Brotherhood was organized with Jack Mercer, President.

March, 1954		Rev. W. P. Hall, Jr. became the first full-time pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church the first Sunday of March, 1954.
March, 1954		Educational Plant was completed.
April, 1954		Educational Plant was occupied.
January 29, 1956		Church voted to build a Pastorium.
Summer 1956		Parsonage was completed.
October 7, 1956		First Hammond electric organ was purchased.
May 6, 1962		Rev. J. Edgar Bishop became pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, making him the second full-time pastor.
	1963	Part-time paid choir director was employed, Mrs. Bobby White.
December, 1963		First part-time paid secretary was employed, Mrs. Don Wesson.
	1963	A monthly newspaper "The Communicator" was established.
	1964	Additional land was purchased adjoining the church property from Alvie Jones.
Summer	1964	First summer Youth Director was employed, Don Ledbetter.
April	1969	New sanctuary and classrooms with recreational facilities was begun.
August	1970	First Church Music Director was employed to coordinate a church music program to include graded choirs. The Director, Mrs. Allen Dixon.
June	1973	The pastorium was renovated.
June	1973	Dr. Clyde Chapman began his ministry at Poplar Springs Baptist Church.
September	1973	Poplar Springs became affiliated with Gardner-Webb College through the Student Interim Program.

October	1973	Observed the 75th Anniversary of our church.
September 28, 1973		The 1975-1976 Church budget was the first budget ever adopted over \$100,000.00.
January	1976	Issued members boxed individual offering envelopes.
December	1976	Largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ever received \$2,652.27.
January	1977	Mrs. Randy Mull was employed as the first full-time church secretary.
September	1977	Largest State Missions Offering ever received \$538.49.
November	1977	Largest Harvest Day Offering collected \$13,631.36.
March	1978	Collected the largest Home Missions Offering of \$1,833.43.
April	1978	Completed the renovation of old sanctuary and choir rooms. Air-conditioned all the older part of the church.

SANCTUARY WINDOWS

The stained glass windows in the new sanctuary were designed by the Laws Stained Glass Studios of Statesville, N. C. These windows have several symbols in each window as well as those in the large windows. The following is an explanation of the symbols.

All windows on the north side of the building contain Old Testament symbols as follows:

- Window No. 1 - Israelite Nation
 - A. Creation - Water, Land, Greenery
 - B. Fall of Man - Tree of Knowledge
 - C. Flood - The Ark
 - D. Covenant with Noah - Rainbow
- Window No. 2 - The Patriarchs
 - A. Abraham - Sacrificial Knife
 - B. Jacob - Ladder
 - C. David - Harp
 - D. Solomon - Temple
- Window No. 3 - Israel in Bondage
 - A. Slavery - Whip and Pile of Bricks
 - B. Birth of Moses - Basket in Bullrushes
 - C. Miracles - Staff and Serpent
 - D. Passover - Blood on Doorposts
- Window No. 4 - Exodus
 - A. God's Guidance - Pillar of Cloud
 - B. Manna - Wafer
 - C. God's Grace - Water gushing from Rock
 - D. Entry to Canaan - Grapes on Staff
- Window No. 5 - Time of Judges
 - A. Gideon - Fleece and Bowl
 - B. Jephthah - Sacrificial Altar
 - C. Samson - Gates of Gaza
 - D. Samuel - Sword of Power
- Window No. 6 - People in Exile and Beyond
 - A. Isaiah - Tongs and Burning Coals
 - B. Jeremiah - Stones
 - C. Daniel - Lions
 - D. Zechariah - Four Horns

All windows on the south side of the building contain New Testament symbols as follows:

- Window No. 1 - Birth of Jesus
 - A. Prophecy of Isaiah - Scroll
 - B. Birth - Manger

- C. Bethlehem - Star
- D. Three Wise Men - Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
- Window No. 2 - Childhood of Jesus
 - A. Flight into Egypt - Pyramids and Palm Trees
 - B. Presentation in Temple - Doves in Basket
 - C. Christ in Workshop - Square
 - D. Christ in Temple - Lamp of Knowledge
- Window No. 3 - Christ in Ministry
 - A. Baptism - Dove and Water
 - B. Teaching - I am the vine
 - C. Healing - Cross Potent
 - D. Salvation - Fountain of Water
- Window No. 4 - Passion of Jesus
 - A. Gethsemane - Cup and Cross
 - B. Betrayal - Bag of Money
 - C. Suffering - Crown of Thorns and Nails
 - D. Crucifixion - Cross
- Window No. 5 - Resurrection
 - A. Death of Jesus - Burial Cloth
 - B. Burial - Tomb
 - C. Resurrection - Phoenix
 - D. Ascension - Fiery Chariot
- Window No. 6 - The Church
 - A. Great Commission - Light of the World
 - B. Pentecost - Dove and Flames
 - C. Paul's Journeys - Missionary Ship
 - D. Triumph of Gospel - Cross and Orb

On the large front window the top of the window represents the Trinity with the Hand of God in the center, Lamb represents the Son of God on the left and the Doves represents the descending of the Holy Spirit on the right. In the bottom of the window the call of Moses represented by the Burning Bush, on the left the giving of the Ten Commandments, on the right the Ark of the Covenant.

These statistics were compiled from the Kings Mountain Baptist Association minutes. Many of the early minute books are not available and because of a limited amount of space in this book we have left out some of the years. You will find these tables of interest to compare the growth of our church, as well as, noting the kinds of information and the increased amount of information asked for through the years.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS

	1899	1901	1906	1911	1916	1920
Number Officers and Teachers	9	8	8	8	9	8
Number of Scholars	84	60	92	96	125	111
Total Enrollment	93	68	100	104	134	119
Average Attendance	57	40	63	65		
School Expenses	\$5.21	\$6.30	0	\$12.00	\$12.50	\$38.00
Number Quarterlies and Lesson Helps	82	60	85	115		

	1924	1928	1933	1937	1941	1946
Officers and Teachers (not enrolled in S. S. classes)	10	14	16	18	20	6
Cradle Roll - under 3 years		25	21	9	12	12
Beginners - 3-5 years		10	17	15	10	16
Primaries - 6-8 years		21	13	12	15	12
Juniors - 9-12 years		23	41	24	33	29
Intermediates - 13-16 years		37	28	44	39	28
Young People - 17-24 years		43	57	42	52	37
Adults - 25-up		55	61	70	84	93
Home Dept.						
Total Enrollment	189	228	254	234	265	233
Average Attendance		100	124	160	150	100
Teachers with Diplomas		4	6	6	6	
Baptized from Sunday School		3	14	12	2	
Contribution to Local Expense	6178	6490				
Contributions to missions		5929				
Is School graded?		yes				
Is it Standard A-1?		no				

	1951	1956	1961	1966
Officers and Teachers (not enrolled in S. S. Class)	4	6	5	6
Cradle Roll	20	20	19	19
Nursery	43	64	38	27
Beginners	46	36	19	20
Primaries	44	51	47	40
Juniors	52	63	43	60
Intermediates	57	48	44	46
Young People	54			
Young People - Single		19	40	35
Young People - Married		20		18
Young People - Away			9	7
Adults	188	196		
Adults 25-34			25	32
Adults 35-64			143	112

	1951	1956	1961	1966
Adults 65-up				32
Extension Dept.	11	6	12	30
Mission Sunday School				20
Grand Total S. S. Enrollment	519	529	444	504
Average Attendance	280	323	255	296
Vacation Bible School Enrollment	145	250	163	169
Average Bible School Attendance	135	215		
	1971	1975	1976	1977
General Officers	5	6	5	8
Preschool 5 years and under	70	65	74	80
Children 6-11 years	78	78	74	80
Youth 12-17 years	84	71	69	60
Young Adults 18-29 years	55	12	19	18
Young Adults married		49	34	37
Adults 30-59 years	125	95	119	105
Adults 60-over	62	38	44	55
Adults away	10	8	6	8
Homebound Units	0	35	35	35
Enrollment of Missions	0	22	22	23
Total Enrollment	489	479	501	509
Average Attendance	294	310	320	318
Vacation Bible School Enrollment	198	221	178	184

STATISTICAL TABLE B.Y.P.U. - B.T.U.

	B.Y.P.U. 1933	B.T.U. 1937	B.T.U. 1941	B.T.U. 1946	B.T.U. 1951
Senior Union	0	15		no report	19
Young People	25	30	15		14
Intermediates	16		25		32
Junior	12		7		36
Nursery					25
Officers					4
Total Enrollment	53	45	47		130
Students in College		2			
	B.T.U. 1956	B.T.U. 1961	B.T.U. 1966		
Nursery	6	1	4		
Beginners	8	1	8		
Primaries	28	14	8		
Juniors	30	15	25		
Intermediates	28	30	30		
Young People	13				
Young People - Single		12	12		
Young People - Married					

*Young People's Work Begun 1927

Adults	34		
Adults 25-34		4	16
Adults 35-64 years		12	10
Adults 65-over			1
General Officers	6	2	5
Total Enrollment	153	91	119
Average Attendance	131	79	85

	B.T.U.	B.T.U.	B.T.U.	B.T.U.
	1971	1975	1976	1977
Pre-School	16	14	18	17
Children	30	27	30	30
Youth	35	25	22	26
Young Adults	3	10	14	10
Adults	35	25	20	25
Senior Adults	15	8	10	10
General Officers	5	3	2	2
Total Enrollment	139	112	116	120
Average Attendance	90	70	82	86

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

	1920	1923	1933	1937	1941	1946	1956	1966
W. M. S. Members	28	22	24	20	16	21	52	62
W. M. U. Units	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	9
Gifts To Missions	\$165.25	\$91.35		\$8.00	\$14.50	\$23.66		

Y. W. A.'s							10	10
G. A.'s						22	31	52
R. A.'s								
Sunbeams			12				17	22

Total Members	28	22	26	20	16	45	136	146
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	1971	1975	1976	1977
Mission Friends	26	38	35	36
Girls in Action	17	34	28	31
Acteens	27	26	21	20
Baptist Young Women	10			
Baptist Women	29	37	22	24

W. M. U. Officers	8	2	8	6
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Total W. M. U. Members	117	137	114	117
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CHURCH STATISTICAL TABLE

	1899	1901	1906	1911	1916	1920
*Sabbaths of Preaching	3	1	4	4	4	1
Number Baptized	8	9	0	0	0	11
Received by Letter	9	5	4	11	7	6
Restored	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Letter	1	0	1	5	11	17

*The Sunday Preaching was held.

	1899	1901	1906	1911	1916	1920
Excluded	0	0	1	0	0	0
Died	2	0	1	1	0	0
Number of Males	25	32	47	63	94	91
Number of Females	33	43	62	65	91	93
Total Membership	58	75	109	128	185	184
Pastor's Salary	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 400.00
State Mission	\$ 1.15	\$ 2.90	\$ 5.55	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.00	0
Home and Indian Missions	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.50	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 5.00	0
Foreign Missions	\$ 1.85	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.00	0
Christian Education	\$ 5.00	\$.50	\$ 4.51	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	0
Baptist Orphanage	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 4.66	\$ 6.00	0	0
The Poor	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 23.55
Old Minister's Relief	0	\$.50	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	0
Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minute Fund	\$.65	\$.40	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50	0
75 Million	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incidentals	0	0	\$ 12.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 105.00
Other Objects	0	\$ 65.00	0	\$ 33.00	0	0
Sunday School Expense	\$ 5.21	\$ 6.30	0	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 38.00
Total Contributions	\$ 90.86	\$155.10	\$136.12	\$ 168.50	\$ 312.00	\$ 566.55
Value of Church Property	\$400.00	\$600.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,000.00

CHURCH STATISTICAL TABLE

	1924	1928	1933	1937	1941
Days of Meeting	0-4	0-4	3	1-3	2-4
Baptisms	14	10	14	12	2
By Letter	13	3	7	12	2
Statement				2	
Restoration					
Last by Letter	10	25	3	18	17
Exclusions	1				
Died	1	1	1	3	
Total Members	240	305	336	365	365
Observance of Lord's Supper			3	2	2
Pastor's Salary	\$ 400.00	\$400.00	\$ 350.00	\$480.00	\$ 660.00
Other Salaries					
Ministrial Help	\$ 72.00			\$ 75.50	\$ 46.00
Building and Repair	\$ 63.50		\$2708.00		
Incidentals	\$ 39.70		\$ 69.44	\$124.28	\$ 143.75
Literature S.S. and B.Y.P.U.	\$ 61.78		\$ 67.80	\$ 76.43	\$ 109.63
Printing minutes and Associational clerk				\$ 3.20	\$ 3.45
Other objects					\$ 6.96
Home Total (Local Work)	\$ 636.98	\$556.40	\$3195.24	\$759.41	\$ 969.79
75 Million (Missions)	\$ 461.65				
Co-operative Program		\$ 28.66	\$ 28.70	\$ 5.65	\$ 29.96
State Missions				\$ 10.00	
Home Missions				\$ 11.48	
Foreign Missions				\$ 10.00	
Red Cross and Foreign Relief					\$ 16.31
Christian Education				\$ 33.00	
Orphanage		\$ 69.29	\$ 18.20	\$ 39.50	\$ 19.58

	1924	1928	1933	1937	1941
Hospital				\$ 15.45	
Old Minister's Relief					
Other Special Gifts					
Other Benevolences	\$ 215.00				
Total Missions and Benevolences	\$ 676.65	\$149.95	\$ 46.90	\$ 125.08	\$ 65.85
Grand Total all Purposes	\$1313.63	\$706.35	\$3424.14	\$884.49	\$1035.64
Value of Church Property	\$3000.00	\$3000.00	\$17000.00	\$17000.00	\$17000.00
Indebtedness on all church Property			\$2708.00		

CHURCH STATISTICAL TABLE

	1946	1951	1956	1961	1966	1971	1975	1976	1977
Dates of Meeting	2-4	2-4	all	5	4	twice on sun, twice on sun, twice on sun,	twice on sun, twice on sun, twice on sun,	twice on sun, twice on sun, twice on sun,	twice on sun,
Baptisms	22	26	20	4	17	11	5	15	11
Letters and other additions	9	45	13	14	18	22	22	27	16
Loss by Death, Transfer, etc.	22	20	21	18	23	39	34	22	13
Total Resident Membership	242	350	500	425	456	493	498	521	537
Total Non-Resident Membership	132	74	124	197	162	185	220	217	215
Total Membership	374	424	624	622	618	683	718	738	752
Revival Meetings Held	1	1	2	1	2			2	1
Pastor's Salary	\$1000.00	\$2291.80	\$ 5035.00	\$ 5200.00	\$ 5200.00				
Salaries (not including pastor)		\$ 730.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1196.00	\$ 6590.00	\$16770.00	\$28414.00	\$ 31316.00	\$33059.00
Salaries (including pastor)									
Revival Expense & Pastoral Supply	\$ 180.86	\$ 362.80	\$ 577.00						
Local Missions and Benevolences		\$ 287.79	\$ 445.00						
Literature, Song Books, Printing	\$ 112.00	\$ 631.53	\$ 1644.00				\$ 3000.00	\$ 3558.00	\$ 3925.00
New Building and Equipment		\$1151.75	\$28695.00						
Maintenance Insurance		\$ 493.95	\$ 3851.00						
Incidentals, janitor, fuel, water repairs, ins., etc.	\$1539.67								
Help for Local poor	\$ 42.00								
Minutes and clerk of association	\$ 10.00								
Payment on Church Debt			\$ 2500.00			\$ 18000.00	\$19094.00	\$ 26756.00	\$29249.00
Other objects	\$ 39.59								
Other Local Expenses		\$ 494.75		\$ 9153.00	\$22596.00	\$40760.00	\$31996.00	\$ 35000.00	
Total Local Expenses	\$2924.12	\$6444.37	\$43647.00	\$15549.00	\$34386.00	\$75530.00	\$82504.00	\$ 96630.00	\$98258.00
Co-operative Program	\$ 158.50	\$ 222.77	\$ 2425.00	\$ 3520.00	\$ 4000.00	\$ 4846.00	\$ 9556.00	\$ 10857.00	\$12755.00
Associational Missions		\$ 90.00	\$ 437.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1600.00
State Missions		\$ 10.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 182.00	\$ 152.00	\$ 306.00	\$ 193.00	\$ 198.00
Home Missions		\$ 6.40	\$ 339.00	\$ 172.00	\$ 358.00	\$ 957.00	\$ 1282.00	\$ 1622.00	\$ 1491.00
Foreign Missions			\$ 380.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 1064.00	\$ 1294.00	\$ 2093.00	\$ 2371.00	\$ 2652.00
Schools, Colleges, Seminaries	\$ 172.25		\$ 370.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 248.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Orphanages		\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 304.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Hospitals	\$ 66.00	\$ 50.57	\$ 322.00	\$ 335.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00

	1946	1951	1956	1961	1966	1971	1975	1976	1977
Relief and Annuity	\$ 13.75		\$ 181.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00		
Red Cross & Foreign Relief	\$ 63.00								
Other objects - Bible Society									
Temperance League, etc.					\$ 543.00	\$ 1120.00	\$ 2259.00	\$ 2282.00	
Total for all missions	\$ 473.50	\$ 579.74	\$ 4804.00	\$ 5691.00	\$ 7145.00	\$ 9249.00	\$ 16956.00	\$ 18525.00	\$ 22018.00
Grand Total All Purposes	\$ 3397.62	\$ 7024.11	\$ 48451.00	\$ 21240.00	\$ 41531.00	\$ 84779.00	\$ 99460.00	\$ 115155.00	\$ 120,276.00
Total All Receipts		\$ 7020.13	\$ 48426.00	\$ 20900.00	\$ 444000.00	\$ 79464.00	\$ 104420.00	\$ 134837.00	\$ 134354.00
Value of all Church Property	\$ 17000.00	\$ 85000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	\$ 203000.00	\$ 560000.00	\$ 646800.00	\$ 646800.00	\$ 646800.00
Indebtedness on all Church Property	0	0	\$ 15000.00	0	0	\$ 183000.00	\$ 118379.00	\$ 99086.48	\$ 75760.71

